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THE DOWNINGS OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY.

By MRS. O. A. KEACH, Wichita, Kansas.

1. Capt. William Downing is mentioned in the Northumberland County Records on January 20, 1655, when John Edwards assigned his interest in a patent for land to the said Downing.

On January 27, 1668, "William Downing of Great Wicomoco river, planter," deeded property to his children as follows: To his eldest son, William, and to his son, John, 600 acres of land up the north side of horse-path and bounding east upon Wm. Wildy and west upon Richard Nelms. Two cows to (name indecipherable), to his daughter, Mary Downing, one cow. Witness, William Jones.

About this time Capt. Downing married Margaret ———, 1679, June 7. The Court ordered that provisions for all Wicomico parish, levied for the Potomac Fort be delivered at the house of Capt. William Downing, Sr.

On the same day Capt. Downing was sworn a Justice of the Court. This office he held until the time of his death in 1683. Capt. Downing's will was dated February 9, 1682, and was probated by Mrs. Margaret Downing, his executrix, in September or October, 1683, but was burned in 1710. His children were: 2 William, 3 John, 4 Thomas, 5 Mary, 6 Probably a daughter, and by second marriage, 7 Charles.

Mrs. Margaret Downing, widow of Capt. Downing, married second, Mr. Edward Typton and had son Joseph Typton.

In 1684, March 19, Mr. Edward Typton who married Mrs. Margaret Downing, executrix of Mr. William Downing, was ordered by the Court to pay bills of exchange drawn on Mr. Edward Jones, merchant, of Bristol, England.

On November 19, 1684, John Downing as attorney of Mr. Samuel Typton, merchant in Bristol brought suit against James Jones. In passing it may be said that the Northumberland County records show many dealings between the colonists of this county and the merchants of Bristol.

2. William Downing, Jr., married Mary as she is mentioned as his relict in the Court records June, 1683. His place of residence is shown in a record of June 7, 1679, when the Court ordered that a part of the provisions due from Fairfield parish for the Potomac Fort be delivered at the house of William Downing, Jr.

His children were: 8 Elizabeth, 9 Ann and 10 Margery.

8. Elizabeth Downing, daughter to William was born December 30, 1670. (St. Stephen's parish records.)

10. Margery Downing married Joseph Hudnall whose will is dated July 9, 1709 and probated August 18, 1709.

He names his wife Margery and his four children, 11 John, 12 Joseph, 13 Ann and 14 Mary.

On December 21, 1709, Margery Hudnall, widow, made a trust deed to Samuel Blackwell for the benefit of her children, John, Joseph, Ann and Mary Hudnall.

Some time before March 20, 1710, Mrs. Hudnall married Samuel Blackwell as the record book for that date furnishes the following interesting history of the second William Downing's line:

Samuel Blackwell of the Parish of St. Stephens and Margery, his wife, one of the daughters and coheirs of William Downing, decd., who was the son of William Downing, also decd., to Samuel Blackwell Jr. for land left by will of William Downing (the elder and grandfather of said Margery) to Thos. Downing (son) part of the land I now dwell upon—said land after the decease of said Thomas Downing to fall into the hands of Wm. Hughlett—to and for the use of the said Saml. Blackwell and Margery, his wife, and at their death for the use of Samuel Blackwell, Jr. (It is evident that Samuel Blackwell, Jr., was a stepson of Margery Blackwell.)

1712 July 26. Richard Nutt and 10 Anne, his wife, one of the daughters and coheirs of William Downing Jr., decd., deed to Samuel Blackwell of St. Stephens parish. The above named William Downing Jr. by will dated September 3rd, 1682, did devise unto *Chas. Downing*, youngest son of testator's father

William Downing, and to Margery Downing, the testator's youngest daughter, his tract of land that he lived on, admitting only an estate for life in said land, and Charles Downing dying before any division, made his right come legally vested in the survivor and after death of said Margery, descends to nearest of kin to the Donor, the said testator, and whereas the said testator left three daughters only, Anne, Elizabeth and the said Margery. The said Anne hath in reversion an estate in fee in the said devised land being 788 acres (more or less) now in possession of Samuel Blackwell and Margery, his wife.

1712, Oct. 20. William Smith and Elizabeth, his wife, one of the daughters and coheirs of Wm. Downing, Jr., deed to Samuel Blackwell of St. Stephen's parish for 788 acres of land, more or less now in possession of Samuel Blackwell and his wife.

1725, Oct 18. Samuel Blackwell and Margery, his wife, one of the daughters of William Downing Jr. and grand-daughter of Wm. Downing, decd., deed to Wm. Jones of Wicomico parish, witnesseth that whereas Wm. Downing, decd., by will bearing date February 1682, did give unto his son, Thos. Downing, his tract of land he lived on in Wicomico parish—thereby admitting only an estate for life and after said Thos. Downing's death, it was determined by Northumberland County Court that the right of the aforesaid land did revert and become legally vested in the coheirs of Wm. Downing Jr., viz: Anne, Elizabeth and aforesaid Margery.

These records establish the identity of the children of William Downing Jr., beyond a question as follows: 8 Elizabeth, married William Smith, 9 Anne, married Richard Nutt; and 10 Margery, married, first, Joseph Hudnall and second, Samuel Blackwell.

The record of 3 John Downing, second son of Capt. William Downing, the progenitor of all bearing that name in Northumberland County, will be given later in a separate paper.

4. Thomas Downing, third son of Capt. Downing, married ———. His children were: 15 Patience, 16 Margaret and 17 Thomas, mentioned as the orphans of Thomas Downing on page 432 of the Order Book, 1678-1698.

15. Patience Downing married Daniel Neale, the 2nd, son of Daniel Neale, the 1st. Daniel Neale, the 2nd, children by his first marriage with Elizabeth Holland were: Lucretia, born September 5, 1680, who married John Cottrell; Daniel b. May 29, 1677; William, born July 1, 168—; Hannah, born July 12, 1684; who married John Haynie and others. The will of Daniel Neale, 3rd, dated November 4, 1700, names youngest brother, Ebenezer; sister, Hannah Neale; brother-in-law, John Cotrell; Niece, Elizabeth Cotrell; mother-in-law, (step-mother) Mrs. Patience Neale. The rest of estate to be divided between his own brothers and sisters. Cousin Christo. Neale, executor. Mention of Mrs. Patience (Downing) Neale's children will be made later.

16. Margaret Downing married ——— James. Her will, dated January 4, 1723, probated January 15, 1724, mentions her daughter, 17 Margaret James, and her sons, 18 Moses, 19 Charles, 20 George, 21 Thomas, 22 William James was legatee of Thomas Downing, probably receiving the greater part of his estate.

Then the children of Margaret James were: William, Moses, Charles, Thomas, George and Margaret.

17. Thomas Downing (Thos.² Capt. William¹) was one of the executors of the will of Joseph Palmer which was probated June 21, 1704.

On Nov. 17, 1708, Thomas Downing was appointed by the Court, Constable for the upper precincts of Wicomico parish. 1710, June 13. Thomas Downing of Wicomico parish, planter, made a deed for 60 acres to Alice Palmer on south side of Great Wicomico river, part of a patent for 216 acres granted by deed from the Proprietor's office in 1704 to said Downing. 1720, May 18 he made a deed to John Champion for 112 acres on south side of Great Wicomico river, being part of 220 acres formerly in possession of George Downing, late decd.

The will of Thomas Downing, dated February 1, 1722, probated February 21, 1722, gives his whole estate to his sister, Margaret James and her children. He mentions, "my sister, Margaret James, cousins (nephews) William and Moses James. To Chas. James. To George James."

It is possible that George Downing, decd., mentioned above, was his son but it is evident that Thomas Downing died without issue. Thus the records prove that the only male descendant of Capt. William Downing in the third generation were the sons of John Downing.